

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An optical recording medium, an optical recording and reproducing method, and an apparatus that can record and reproduce multilevel information at a high density and with a high S/N ratio. Recording light emitted from a light source is collimated by a collimation lens and introduced into a polarization rotary device. Recording light transmitted by the polarization rotary device is focused by an objective lens onto an optical recording medium. In response, a photo-induced birefringence is recorded on the optical recording medium. Multilevel recording is performed by controlling a voltage applied to the polarization rotary device to change a polarization angle  $\theta$  of recording light. Reproduction is performed by detecting light reflected from the optical recording medium with an analyzer and a detector.

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